

Practitioner's Docket No. 162-002 *PATENT*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of
Inventor(s): Van Daele Stephen Mabrito

WARNING: 37 C.F.R. § 1.41(a)(1) points out:

"(a) A patent is applied for in the name or names of the actual inventor or inventors.

(1) The inventorship of a nonprovisional application is that inventorship set forth in the oath or declaration as prescribed by § 1.63, except as provided for in § 1.53(d)(4) and § 1.63(d). If an oath or declaration as prescribed by § 1.63 is not filed during the pendency of a nonprovisional application, the inventorship is that inventorship set forth in the application papers filed pursuant to § 1.53(b), unless a petition under this paragraph accompanied by the fee set forth in § 1.17(i) is filed supplying or changing the name or names of the inventor or inventors."

For (title): Computerized Quotation Generation System

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10*

(Express Mail label number is mandatory.)

(Express Mail certification is optional.)

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date August 11, 2000, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," mailing Label Number EK818320452US, addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

EK818320452US

Steve M. Clemmons

(type or print name of person mailing paper)

Stm

Signature of person mailing paper

WARNING: Certificate of mailing (first class) or facsimile transmission procedures of 37 C.F.R. 1.8 cannot be used to obtain a date of mailing or transmission for this correspondence.

***WARNING:** Each paper or fee filed by "Express Mail" **must** have the number of the "Express Mail" mailing label placed thereon prior to mailing. 37 C.F.R. 1.10(b).
"Since the filing of correspondence under § 1.10 without the Express Mail mailing label thereon is an oversight that can be avoided by the exercise of reasonable care, requests for waiver of this requirement will not be granted on petition." Notice of Oct. 24, 1996, 60 Fed. Reg. 56,439, at 56,442.

1. Type of Application

This new application is for a(n)

(check one applicable item below)

- ☒ Original (nonprovisional)
☐ Design
☐ Plant

WARNING: Do not use this transmittal for a completion in the U.S. of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4), unless the International Application is being filed as a divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application.

WARNING: Do not use this transmittal for the filing of a provisional application.

NOTE: If one of the following 3 items apply, then complete and attach ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF A PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION CLAIMED and a NOTIFICATION IN PARENT APPLICATION OF THE FILING OF THIS CONTINUATION APPLICATION.

- ☐ Divisional.
☐ Continuation.
☐ Continuation-in-part (C-I-P).

2. Benefit of Prior U.S. Application(s) (35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, or 121)

NOTE: A nonprovisional application may claim an invention disclosed in one or more prior filed copending nonprovisional applications or copending international applications designating the United States of America. In order for a nonprovisional application to claim the benefit of a prior filed copending nonprovisional application or copending international application designating the United States of America, each prior application must name as an inventor at least one inventor named in the later filed nonprovisional application and disclose the named inventor's invention claimed in at least one claim of the later filed nonprovisional application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112. Each prior application must also be:

(i) An international application entitled to a filing date in accordance with PCT Article 11 and designating the United States of America; or

(ii) Complete as set forth in § 1.51(b); or

(iii) Entitled to a filing date as set forth in § 1.53(b) or § 1.53(d) and include the basic filing fee set forth in § 1.16; or

(iv) Entitled to a filing date as set forth in § 1.53(b) and have paid therein the processing and retention fee set forth in § 1.21(l) within the time period set forth in § 1.53(f).

37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(1).

NOTE If the new application being transmitted is a divisional, continuation or a continuation-in-part of a parent case, or where the parent case is an International Application which designated the U.S., or benefit of a prior provisional application is claimed, then check the following item and complete and attach ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.

WARNING: If an application claims the benefit of the filing date of an earlier filed application under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121

15880 U.S. PRO
08/11/00

or 365(c), the 20-year term of that application will be based upon the filing date of the earliest U.S. application that the application makes reference to under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c). (35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2) does not take into account, for the determination of the patent term, any application on which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119, 365(a) or 365(b).) For a c-i-p application, applicant should review whether any claim in the patent that will issue is supported by an earlier application and, if not, the applicant should consider canceling the reference to the earlier filed application. The term of a patent is not based on a claim-by-claim approach. See Notice of April 14, 1995, 60 Fed. Reg. 20,195, at 20,205.

WARNING: When the last day of pendency of a provisional application falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday within the District of Columbia, any nonprovisional application claiming benefit of the provisional application **must** be filed prior to the Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday within the District of Columbia. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3).

☐ The new application being transmitted claims the benefit of prior U.S. application(s).
Enclosed are ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE
BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.

3. Papers Enclosed

A. Required for Filing Date under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) (Regular) or 37 C.F.R. § 1.153 (Design) Application

31 Pages of Specification
5 Pages of Claims
7 Sheets of Drawing

WARNING: **DO NOT** submit original drawings. A high quality copy of the drawings should be supplied when filing a patent application. The drawings that are submitted to the Office must be on strong, white, smooth, and non-shiny paper and meet the standards according to § 1.84. If corrections to the drawings are necessary, they should be made to the original drawing and a high-quality copy of the corrected original drawing then submitted to the Office. Only one copy is required or desired. For comments on proposed then-new 37 C.F.R. 1.84, see Notice of March 9, 1988. (1990 O.G. 57-62).

NOTE: "Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the application number or the title of the invention, inventor's name, docket number (if any), and the name and telephone number of a person to call if the Office is unable to match the drawings to the proper application. This information should be placed on the back of each sheet of drawing a minimum distance of 1.5 cm. (5/8 inch) down from the top of the page. . ." 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(c)).

(complete the following, if applicable)

☐ The enclosed drawing(s) are photograph(s), and there is also attached a "PETITION TO ACCEPT PHOTOGRAPH(S) AS DRAWING(S)." 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(b).

☐ Formal
☒ Informal

B. Other Papers Enclosed

2 Pages of declaration and power of attorney
1 Pages of Abstract
____ Other

4. **Additional Papers Enclosed**

- ☐ Amendment to claims
- ☐ Cancel in this applications claims _____ before calculating the filing fee. (At least one original independent claim must be retained for filing purposes.)
- ☐ Add the claims shown on the attached amendment. (Claims added have been numbered consecutively following the highest numbered original claims.)
- ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (37 C.F.R. § 1.98)
- ☐ Form PTO-1449 (PTO/SB/08A and 08B)
- ☐ Citations
- ☐ Declaration of Biological Deposit
- ☐ Submission of "Sequence Listing," computer readable copy and/or amendment pertaining thereto for biotechnology invention containing nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence.
- ☐ Authorization of Attorney(s) to Accept and Follow Instructions from Representative
- ☐ Special Comments
- ☐ Other

5. **Declaration or Oath (including power of attorney)**

NOTE: A newly executed declaration is not required in a continuation or divisional application provided the prior nonprovisional application contained a declaration as required, the application being filed is by all or fewer than all the inventors named in the prior application, there is no new matter in the application being filed, and a copy of the executed declaration filed in the prior application (showing the signature or an indication thereon that it was signed) is submitted. The copy must be accompanied by a statement requesting deletion of the names of person(s) who are not inventors of the application being filed. If the declaration in the prior application was filed under § 1.47 then a copy of that declaration must be filed accompanied by a copy of the decision granting § 1.47 status or, if a nonsigning person under § 1.47 has subsequently joined in a prior application, then a copy of the subsequently executed declaration must be filed. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d)(1)-(3).

NOTE: A declaration filed to complete an application must be executed, identify the specification to which it is directed, identify each inventor by full name, including the family name, and at least one given name without abbreviation together with any other given name or initial, and the residence, post office address and country of citizenship of each inventor, and state whether the inventor is a sole or joint inventor. 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(a)(1)-(4).

☒ Enclosed

Executed by

(check all applicable boxes)

- ☒ inventor(s).
- ☐ legal representative of inventor(s). 37 C.F.R. § 1.42 or 1.43.
- ☐ joint inventor or person showing a proprietary interest on behalf of inventor who refused to sign or cannot be reached.

☐ This is the petition required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.47 and the statement required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.47 is also attached. See item 13 below for fee.

☐ Not Enclosed.

NOTE: *Where the filing is a completion in the U.S. of an International Application, or where the completion of the U.S. application contains subject matter in addition to the International Application, the application may be treated as a continuation or continuation-in-part, as the case may be, utilizing ADDED PAGE FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION CLAIMED.*

☐ Application is made by a person authorized under 37 C.F.R. 1.41(c) on behalf of all the above named inventor(s).

(The declaration or oath, along with the surcharge required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(e), can be filed subsequently).

☐ Showing that the filing is authorized.
(not required unless called into question. 37 C.F.R. § 1.41(d))

6. Inventorship Statement

WARNING: *If the named inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims an explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted.*

The inventorship for all the claims in this application are:

☒ The same.

or

☐ Not the same. An explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made,

☐ is submitted.

☐ will be submitted.

7. Language

NOTE: *An application including a signed oath or declaration may be filed in a language other than English. An English translation of the non-English language application and the processing fee of \$130.00 required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(k) is required to be filed with the application, or within such time as may be set by the Office. 37 C.F.R. § 1.52(d).*

☒ English

☐ Non-English

☐ The attached translation includes a statement that the translation is accurate. 37 C.F.R. § 1.52(d).

8. Assignment

☐ An assignment of the invention to _____

- ☐ is attached. A separate ☐ "COVER SHEET FOR ASSIGNMENT (DOCUMENT) ACCOMPANYING NEW PATENT APPLICATION" or ☐ FORM PTO 1595 is also attached.
☐ will follow.

NOTE: "If an assignment is submitted with a new application, send two separate letters—one for the application and one for the assignment" Notice of May 4, 1990 (1114 O.G. 77-78).

WARNING: A newly executed "STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b)" must be filed when a continuation-in-part application is filed by an assignee. Notice of April 30, 1993, 1150 O.G. 62-64.

9. Certified Copy

Certified copy(ies) of application(s)

Country	Appln. no.	Filed
Country	Appln. no.	Filed
Country	Appln. no.	Filed

from which priority is claimed

- ☐ is (are) attached.
☐ will follow.

NOTE: The foreign application forming the basis for the claim for priority must be referred to in the oath or declaration. 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a) and 1.63.

NOTE: This item is for any foreign priority for which the application being filed directly relates. If any parent U.S. application or International Application from which this application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 is itself entitled to priority from a prior foreign application, then complete item 18 on the ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.

10. Fee Calculation (37 C.F.R. § 1.16)

- A. ☒ Regular application

CLAIMS AS FILED

Claims	Number Filed	Basic Fee Allowance	Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(a) \$690.00
Total Claims (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(c))	16	- 20 =	0	\$ 18.00	
Independent Claims (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b))	2	- 3 =	0	\$ 78.00	
Multiple Dependent Claim(s), if any (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(d))			+	\$260.00	

- ☐ Amendment cancelling extra claims is enclosed.
☐ Amendment deleting multiple-dependencies is enclosed.
☐ Fee for extra claims is not being paid at this time.

NOTE: *If the fees for extra claims are not paid on filing they must be paid or the claims cancelled by amendment, prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the Patent and Trademark Office in any notice of fee deficiency. 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(d).*

Filing Fee Calculation \$ 690.00

- B. ☐ Design application
(\$310.00—37 C.F.R. § 1.16(f))

Filing Fee Calculation \$ 0.00

- C. ☐ Plant application
(\$480.00—37 C.F.R. § 1.16(g))

Filing Fee Calculation \$ 0.00

11. Small Entity Statement(s)

- ☒ Statement(s) that this is a filing by a small entity under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.9 and 1.27 is (are) attached.

WARNING: *"Status as a small entity must be specifically established in each application or patent in which the status is available and desired. Status as a small entity in one application or patent does not affect any other application or patent, including applications or patents which are directly or indirectly dependent upon the application or patent in which the status has been established. The refiling of an application under § 1.53 as a continuation, division, or continuation-in-part (including a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d)), or the filing of a reissue application requires a new determination as to continued entitlement to small entity status for the continuing or reissue application. A nonprovisional application claiming benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, or 365(c) of a prior application, or a reissue application may rely on a statement filed in the prior application or in the patent if the nonprovisional application or the reissue application includes a reference to the statement in the prior application or in the patent or includes a copy of the statement in the prior application or in the patent and status as a small entity is still proper and desired. The payment of the small entity basic statutory filing fee will be treated as such a reference for purposes of this section." 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(a)(2).*

(complete the following, if applicable)

- ☐ Status as a small entity was claimed in prior application
_____/_____, filed on _____ from which benefit is being
claimed for this application under:

35 U.S.C. § ☐ 119(e),
☐ 120,
☐ 121,
☐ 365(c),

and which status as a small entity is still proper and desired.

☐ A copy of the statement in the prior application is included.

Filing Fee Calculation (50% of A, B or C above) \$ 345.00

NOTE: Any excess of the full fee paid will be refunded if a small entity status is established refund request are filed within 2 months of the date of timely payment of a full fee. The two-month period is not extendable under § 1.136, 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(a).

12. Request for International-Type Search (37 C.F.R. § 1.104(d))

(complete, if applicable)

☐ Please prepare an international-type search report for this application at the time when national examination on the merits takes place.

13. Fee Payment Being Made at This Time

☐ Not Enclosed

☐ No filing fee is to be paid at this time.
(This and the surcharge required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(e) can be paid subsequently.)

☒ Enclosed

☒ Filing fee \$ 345.00

☐ Recording assignment
(\$40.00; 37 C.F.R. § 1.21(h))
(See attached "COVER SHEET FOR
ASSIGNMENT ACCOMPANYING NEW
APPLICATION.") \$ 0.00

☐ Petition fee for filing by other
than all the inventors or person
on behalf of the inventor where
inventor refused to sign or cannot
be reached
(\$130.00; 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.47 and 1.17(i)) \$ 0.00

☐ For processing an application with a
specification in a non-English language
(\$130.00; 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.52(d) and 1.17(k)) \$ 0.00

☐ Processing and retention fee
(\$130.00; 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.53(d) and 1.21(l)) \$ 0.00

☐ Fee for international-type search report

(\$40.00; 37 C.F.R. § 1.21(e))

\$ 0.00

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.21(l) establishes a fee for processing and retaining any application that is abandoned for failing to complete the application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f) and this, as well as the changes to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 and 1.78(a)(1), indicate that in order to obtain the benefit of a prior U.S. application, either the basic filing fee must be paid, or the processing and retention fee of § 1.21(l) must be paid, within 1 year from notification under § 53(f).

Total Fees Enclosed

\$ 345.00

14. Method of Payment of Fees

☒ Check in the amount of \$ 345.00.

☐ Charge Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____.
A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

NOTE: Fees should be itemized in such a manner that it is clear for which purpose the fees are paid. 37 C.F.R. § 1.22(b).

15. Authorization to Charge Additional Fees

WARNING: If no fees are to be paid on filing, the following items should not be completed.

WARNING: Accurately count claims, especially multiple dependent claims, to avoid unexpected high charges, if extra claim charges are authorized.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the following additional fees by this paper and during the entire pendency of this application to Account No. 03-1723.

☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(a), (f) or (g) (filing fees)

☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b), (c) and (d) (presentation of extra claims)

NOTE: Because additional fees for excess or multiple dependent claims not paid on filing or on later presentation must only be paid or these claims cancelled by amendment prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the PTO in any notice of fee deficiency (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(d)), it might be best not to authorize the PTO to charge additional claim fees, except possibly when dealing with amendments after final action.

☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(e) (surcharge for filing the basic filing fee and/or declaration on a date later than the filing date of the application)

☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1)-(5) (extension fees pursuant to § 1.136(a).

☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (application processing fees)

NOTE: "A written request may be submitted in an application that is an authorization to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. An authorization to charge all required fees, fees under § 1.17, or all required extension of time fees will be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission. Submission of the fee set forth in § 1.17(a) will also be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in any concurrent reply requiring a

petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission." 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.18 (issue fee at or before mailing of Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.311(b))

NOTE: Where an authorization to charge the issue fee to a deposit account has been filed before the mailing of a Notice of Allowance, the issue fee will be automatically charged to the deposit account at the time of mailing the notice of allowance. 37 C.F.R. § 1.311(b)).

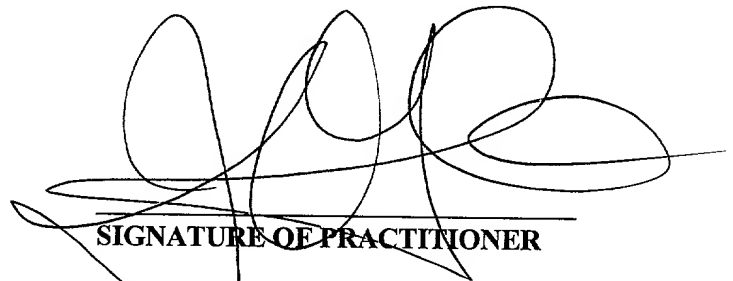
NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(b) requires "Notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status must be filed in the application . . . prior to paying, or at the time of paying, . . . issue fee." From the wording of 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(b), (a) notification of change of status must be made even if the fee is paid as "other than a small entity" and (b) no notification is required if the change is to another small entity.

16. Instructions as to Overpayment

NOTE: "... Amounts of twenty-five dollars or less will not be returned unless specifically requested within a reasonable time, nor will the payer be notified of such amounts; amounts over twenty-five dollars may be returned by check or, if requested, by credit to a deposit account." 37 C.F.R. § 1.26(a).

☒ Credit Account No. 03-1723.

☐ Refund


SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

Reg. No. 33,483

Tel. No.: 248-865-9588

John G. Chupa
Chupa & Alberti, P.C.
31313 Northwestern Highway
Suite 205
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

☐ **Incorporation by reference of added pages**

(check the following item if the application in this transmittal claims the benefit of prior U.S. application(s) (including an international application entering the U.S. stage as a continuation, divisional or C-I-P application) and complete and attach the ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED)

☐ Plus Added Pages for New Application Transmittal Where Benefit of Prior U.S. Application(s) Claimed

Number of pages added _____

☐ Plus Added Pages for Papers Referred to in Item 4 Above

Number of pages added _____

☐ Plus added pages deleting names of inventor(s) named on prior application(s) who is/are no longer inventor(s) of the subject matter claimed in this application.

Number of pages added _____

☐ Plus "Assignment Cover Letter Accompanying New Application"

Number of pages added _____

☒ **Statement Where No Further Pages Added**

(if no further pages form a part of this Transmittal, then end this Transmittal with this page and check the following item)

☒ This transmittal ends with this page.

SCANNED

Practitioner's Docket No. 162-002

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Mabrito, Van Daele Stephen

Application No:

Filed on:

Title:

Computerized Quotation Generation System

STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(c) AND 1.27(b)-INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

As a below named inventor, I hereby state that I qualify as an independent inventor, as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c), for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office under Sections 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office, with regard to the invention described in the specification filed herewith, with title as listed above.


I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any right in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c), if that person had made the invention, or to any concern that would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

No person, concern or organization exists to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any right in the invention.

NONE

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like as made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.


Signature of Inventor

Date: August 10, 2000

COMPUTERIZED QUOTATION GENERATION SYSTEM(1) FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention generally relates to a computerized quotation system and more particularly, to a computerized quotation system which selectively generates relatively accurate equipment quotations.

10 (2) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

 A business enterprise often sells or offers many diverse types of equipment for sale or lease, thereby requiring the sales staff to have knowledge of the identity and associated pricing, availability, shipping, and attribute type information for each type or variety of this wide variety of equipment. Moreover, this equipment information is typically resident within a store or facility and is usually contained on paper or in a computer which is only capable of being locally accessed (i.e.,
15 accessed only at the location at which the computer resides). Further, the staff must typically "sift through" all of this information before creating a quotation by
20

manually reproducing at least some of the contained information upon one or more "quote sheets".

While the previously delineated approach does allow a quotation to be generated, it has several drawbacks. By way of example and without limitation, this approach is relatively inefficient due to its inability to automatically and selectively copy certain information from the equipment database onto the quotation sheets. This requirement also undesirably increases the likelihood of errantly generated quotations. This approach also does not efficiently allow the contained equipment information to be readily scanned and reviewed since the information is typically contained in relatively bulky, binder type assemblies or devices or resides in a computer system which is not adapted to allow the information to be searched by an attribute or "key word". Moreover, this approach is also not adapted for use by mobile or traveling sales personnel since the equipment data or information is typically not computerized and not accessible by those remotely located from it. Further, the equipment information is not typically and readily updated, thereby causing errant quotations to be undesirably generated and

is not generally adapted for use with a global communications network, such as the Internet.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 It is a first object of the present invention to provide a computerized quotation system which overcomes some or all of the previously delineated drawbacks of prior quotation systems.

10 It is a second object of the present invention to provide a computerized quotation system which overcomes some or all of the previously delineated drawbacks of prior quotation systems and which, by way of example and without limitation, allows a relatively accurate quotation to be quickly and easily generated.

15 It is a third object of the present invention to provide a computerized quotation system which overcomes some or all of the previously delineated drawbacks of prior quotation systems and which, by way of example and without limitation, allows certain equipment information to be
20 readily and efficiently placed within a quotation.

 It is a fourth object of the present invention to provide a computerized quotation system which overcomes some or all of the previously delineated drawbacks of prior

quotation systems and which, by way of example and without limitation, contains equipment information and allows the contained information to be quickly and easily scanned.

According to a first aspect of the present invention,
5 a computerized quotation system is provided. The computerized quotation system includes at least one first portion which has equipment information; and a second portion which selectively copies at least some of the contained equipment information and which uses some of the
10 copied information to provide a quotation.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, a method for providing a quotation is provided. The method includes the steps of obtaining equipment information; placing the information in a database; storing the
15 database; selecting at least some of the information; providing a quotation template; and copying the selected information onto the quotation template.

These and other features, aspects, and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from a reading
20 of the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment of the invention and by reference to the following drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a block diagram of a computerized quotation system which is made in accordance with the teachings of the preferred embodiment of the invention;

5 Figure 2 is an illustration of a dealer information template which is used by the computer system which is shown in Figure 1;

10 Figures 3(a-b) cooperatively comprise an illustration of the equipment information portion of the computerized quotation system which is shown in Figure 1;

 Figure 4 is an illustration of the "totals box details" portion of the equipment information portion which is shown in Figures 1 and 3;

15 Figure 5 is an illustration of the "salesman miscellaneous detail" portion of the equipment information portion which is shown in Figures 1 and 3; and

 Figures 6(a-b) cooperatively comprise an illustration of the quotation template used by the computerized quotation system which is shown in Figure 1.

20

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

Referring now to Figure 1, there is shown a computerized quotation system 10 which is made in accordance with the teachings of the preferred embodiment of the invention. As shown, system 10 comprises a computer 5 12 which is operable under stored program control and which may comprise a conventional "lap top" type computer or substantially any other type of conventional computer which is commercially available, including but not limited to, the computers which are manufactured and produced by the 10 IBM Corporation of Armonk, New York.

As further shown in Figure 1, computer 12 includes a quotation portion 14 and an equipment portion 16. More particularly, the quotation portion 14 is communicatively and controllably coupled to the equipment portion 16 such 15 that, as is more fully and completely delineated below, at least a portion of the information which is resident within the equipment portion 16 is selectively "copied" to and/or selectively transferred to the quotation portion 14. Hence, in the preferred embodiment of the invention, both portions 20 14 and 16 are constructed of software and/or firmware and may be accessed and/or modified by a user by the use of a keyboard or other conventional input and/or user interface type device. Moreover, in another non-limiting embodiment

of the invention, portions 14 and 16 may be remotely accessed by another computer 20 by the use of a global communications network, such as the Internet 22.

In this manner, as is more fully and completely delineated below, a user of computer 12 and/or computer 20 may selectively and remotely access the portions 14 and 16 and quickly and easily prepare a quotation and/or quickly and easily update the then currently stored information within the portions 14 and 16.

Referring now to Figure 2, there is shown a screen of information 30 which may be resident within either of the portions 14 and/or 16. Alternatively, informational screen 30 may be placed within a portion which is distinct from either of portions 14 and 16 but which operatively resides within the computer 12 and which may be selectively accessed by a user.

As shown, informational screen display portion 30 includes a first item of information 32 which represents a succinct summary of the contained information and may include, by way of example and without limitation, the name of the dealer. Display portion 30 further includes a second item of information 34 which identifies the name of the dealer, and a third item of information 36 which identifies

the address of the dealer. Screen display portion 30 further includes portions 38, 40, and 42 which respectively identify the city that the dealer resides within, the state that the dealer resides within, and the telephone number of the dealer. Screen display portion 30 further includes portions 44, 46, and 48 which respectively identify the telephone number of the "contact person" or the person that the customer interacts with, the postal code or "zip code" of the dealer, and the telefacsimile number of the dealer. Screen display portion 30 further includes portions 50, 52, and 54 which respectively represent the electronic mail address of the dealer, the "setup" labor rate which is usually charged by the dealer to a customer, and the percentage of the material price which is charged by the dealer to its customer for "handling" the equipment. In the preferred embodiment of the invention, each dealer or user of the computer system 10 has a unique information screen of information which is stored within the computer 10. In this manner, a user of the computer 12 may quickly and efficiently access all of the pertinent dealer information and use the information to efficiently prepare a quotation.

Referring now to Figures 3(a-b), there is shown an informational screen of information 70 having informational

portions or entries which are stored within the computer 12 and which may be selectively accessed by a user of the computer 12 and thereafter presented to the user of the computer 12 in the form which is shown by the screen 70. In 5 the preferred embodiment of the invention, each product which is provided or sold by the user of the computer system 10 has a unique screen display 70 which is selectively displayed to the user in the manner which is shown in Figure 3(a).

10 Particularly, informational screen display 70 includes a first entry or informational portion 72 which generally identifies the product or assembly for which the remaining information which is included within the display 70 is associated with. Display 70 further includes an 15 informational display portion 74 which identifies the various features and functionalities which are included in and/or are provided by the product or the assembly which is delineated within the entry or informational portion 72.

Informational screen display 70 further includes a 20 portion 76 which delineates information associated with the product or device which is referred to in the portion 72. Portion 76 identifies required products or equipment that must be selected in order to generate a quote. In one non-

limiting embodiment, portion 76 comprises at least one line of information 98 which is grouped in at least one "sub-section". For each sub-section within portion 76, one line 98 must be selected to generate a quote. Portion 76
5 comprises various descriptive headings to identify the information within lines 98. Particularly, portion 76 includes a first descriptive heading 78 which is entitled "attachment identifier" and which includes an entry, such as entry 80, identifying the manufacturer's model number or
10 some other unique number which is associated with the product which is referenced in portion 72. Further, portion 76 includes a second descriptive heading 82 which is entitled "description" and which includes an entry, such as entry 84, which generally describes the product which is
15 referenced within the portion 72. Portion 76 also includes a third descriptive heading 86 which is entitled "quantity". If the corresponding line 98 is selected, an entry 88 which, as is more fully explained below, is required to be dynamically placed within portion 70 by the
20 quotation creator and which identifies the number of products, described by the entry 84, that are being "quoted".

Portion 76 further includes a descriptive heading 90 which is entitled "list price" and which requires an entry, such as entry 92, identifying the list price of the product described within the portion 84. Portion 76 further
5 includes a descriptive heading 94 which is entitled "subtotal list" and which requires an entry, such as entry 96, which is the mathematical product of the entry 88 and 92 which respectively appear on the same row of information 98 as does the entry 96. Portion 76 further includes a
10 descriptive heading 99 which is entitled "setup hours" and which requires an entry, such as entry 100, which approximates the number of hours required to properly install and "setup" the product referred to by entry 84 which appears within the same row of information 98 as does
15 the entry 100.

Portion 76 further includes a descriptive heading 102 which is entitled "ship lb" and which contains an entry, such as entry 104, which delineates the weight of the product (in terms of pounds) which is referenced by the
20 entry 84 within the row 98. Portion 76 further includes a descriptive heading 106 which is entitled "wt kg" and which contains an entry, such as entry 108, which delineates the weight of the product (in terms of kilograms) which is

referenced by the entry 84 within the row 98. Portion 76 also includes a descriptive heading 110 which is entitled "code" and which contains an entry, such as entry 112, which represents a unique code which may be assigned to the product which is referenced by the entry 84 within the row 98 and which may, in one non-limiting embodiment, represent a model number or production number. Portion 76 further includes descriptive headings 114 and 116 which are respectively referred to as "REF1" and "REF2" and which respectively contain an entry, such as entries 120 and 122. Particularly, entries 120 and 122 cooperatively allow two additional unique codes to be attached to the product which is referenced by the entry 84 appearing within the informational row 98. In one non-limiting embodiment, entry 120 comprises encoded cost information which may be used by the manufacturer or dealer to process an order or to verify the accuracy of a quote. In this embodiment, entry 122 is an extension of entry 120 providing for the quantity entry 88 and which is used in the salesman miscellaneous detail 202 to determine the dealer's cost.

Informational screen 70 further includes a display portion 130 which includes a descriptive header 132 which is entitled "attachments-order as desired" and which, as is

more fully delineated below, is used to succinctly and efficiently list the various additional components or "attachments" which the product, referenced by the entry 80 within row 98, may optionally utilize.

5 As shown, display portion 130 includes a first column of information 134 having entries, such as entry 136, which identifies the model number, part number, or other identification number of one such attachment or component. In one non-limiting embodiment, entry 136 may include the
10 part number of a distinctly different, but related, attachment. Display portion 130 further includes a second column of information 138 having entries 140, 142. Particularly, an entry 140 appears within the same row of information as a unique one of the entries appearing within
15 the column 134 and describes the attachment or component represented by the entry, such as entry 136. Further, entry 142 clarifies the use of the attachment which is referenced by the entry 140 appearing just above the entry 142. Display portion 130 further includes a third column of
20 information 144 which appears under the descriptive heading 90 and this third column of information includes entries 146. Particularly, each entry 146 represents the list price

of the item which is referred to by the entry 136 which appears within the same informational row as the entry 146.

Display portion 130 further includes a fourth column of information 148 which appears under the descriptive heading 102 and which includes entries 150. Particularly, an entry 150 represents the shipping weight (in terms of pounds) of the component or attachment which is identified by the entry 136 which appears within the same informational row as the entry 150. Display portion 130

10 further includes a fifth column of information 152 which appears under the descriptive heading 106 and which includes entries 154. Particularly, an entry 154 represents the weight (in terms of kilograms) of the component or attachment which is identified by the entry 136 which appears within the same informational row as does the entry 154.

Display portion 130 further includes a sixth column of information 156 which appears under the descriptive heading 110 and which has entries 158. Particularly, an entry 158 uniquely identifies the component or attachment which is referred to by the entry 136 which appears upon the same row of information as does the entry 158 and, in one non-limiting embodiment, may represent a production or shipping

code. Display portion 130 further includes a seventh column of information 160 which appears under the descriptive heading 114 and which includes entries 162. Particularly, an entry 162 represents another unique code which may be ascribed to the component or attachment which is represented by the entry 136 which appears upon the same row of information as does the entry 162. In one non-limiting embodiment, entry 162 comprises encoded cost information substantially the same as the type delineated for entry 120 above. It should be understood that display portion 130 contains columns of information 134 - 164, which are substantially equivalent to the columns 78 - 116 of portion 76. These columns 134 - 164 may be intentionally left blank (e.g., entry 153: "setup hours") or may require dynamic user input (e.g., entry 143: "quantity") for a particular product or item.

In one non-limiting embodiment of the invention, informational screen 70 further includes a third display portion 180, having a descriptive header portion 181 which reads "attachments for field conversions" and which has several columns of information 182 and several entries 184. In one non-limiting embodiment of the invention, the informational columns of the display portion 180 are

substantially similar to the informational columns of the display portion 130. However, in contrast to the entries of the columns 134, 138, 144, 148, 152, 156, and 160, the entries in the columns 182 correspond to items, components, and attachments which are used to convert existing equipment in order to allow them to substantially correspond in functionality to the device represented by the entry 84.

Display portion 180 further includes a portion 200 which is entitled "totals box" and which includes information about the equipment which is shown in portions 76 and 130 and which is more fully and completely delineated below and a portion 202 which is referred to as "salesman miscellaneous detail" and which is further delineated below.

In operation, a sales professional desiring to generate a quotation for equipment or to enter new data and/or information on the equipment selects the informational display portion, such as informational display portion 70, for the equipment which is desired to be quoted or edited. When adding new information, a new sub-section of lines 98 may be added to a screen 70 by the

salesman by generating at least one blank pre-formatted line 98 that may then be dynamically edit as desired.

In one non-limiting embodiment of the invention, computer 12 includes a directory portion 204, as shown in Figure 1, which lists all of the various diverse types or models of equipment for which the sales professional may provide a quotation. This list may be arranged in alphabetical order and may be selectively searched by the use of a keyword (e.g., by model number or manufacturer name).

The sales professional then selectively accesses each of the display portions, such as screen display portion 70, and performs the activities which are more fully delineated below with respect to the display portion 70.

That is, upon "opening" or accessing the portion 70 and causing the portion 70 to be selectively displayed upon the computer 12, the sales professional then determines the quantity of the product to be quoted and places a corresponding number under the heading 86 (i.e., represented as entry 88). The other entries 80, 84, 92, 96, 100, 104, 108, 112, 120, and 122 within the row 98 are already provided by the computer 12. In one non-limiting embodiment of the invention, these entries 80, 84, 92, 96,

100, 104, 108, 112, 120, and 122 within the row 98 may be inputted manually, downloaded off of a compact disc, or off of the Internet 22. Similarly, the sales professional selectively places a quantity entry into column 141 of display portion 130 and within a row 208 including the entry 136 corresponding to the attachment which is to be ordered. Similarly, the sales professional selectively places a quantity entry into the row 184 of display portion 180 corresponding to the desired field conversion assembly.

After the quantities are selectively placed into display portion 70, the sales professional may selectively depress an "enter key" which is provided by the computer 12 or selectively depress a mouse-provided cursor. Upon such an activity, computer 12 is adapted to provide a total list price of all selected entities and their respective quantities. The total list price is represented as an entry 220 and appears upon the same row as the heading "total list price" 222, as shown in Figure 4. Further, a desired manufacturer's discount is inputted which is based, by way of example and without limitation, upon the identity of the customer (e.g., the purchasing history of the customer), and/or upon the identity of the selected items, and/or on "special offers" from the product's manufacturer. This

discount is dynamically inputted by the salesman and is used to form an entry 224 which appears upon the same row of information as the heading 226 which is entitled "manufacturer's discount 1". The computer 12 is then
5 adapted to provide an entry 228 which appears upon the same row of information as the heading 230 which is entitled "subtotal" and which, in one non-limiting embodiment of the invention, represents a mathematical subtraction of entry 224 from entry 220.

10 Further, computer 12 is adapted to automatically provide an entry 232 which appears upon the same informational row as the heading 234 which is entitled "setup". Particularly, entry 232 represents the total "setup" charges which are associated with the quantity of
15 equipment, components, assemblies, and attachments which have been selected. For example, this entry 232 is based upon the number of hours which are represented by entry 100 and by the number of such machines which are to be provided as represented by the entry 88 this figure is then
20 mathematically multiplied by the "setup" labor rate 52. Similar hourly information may be provided, in other non-limiting embodiments of the invention, by the use of entries 143 and 153 within portions 130 and 180. Moreover,

computer 12 is also adapted to provide an entry 240 which appears upon the same informational row as the heading 242 which is entitled "freight". Particularly, entry 240 represents the total freight charges associated with the shipment of the quoted equipment, attachments, and/or assemblies to a location desired by the customer and is based, in part, upon the weight of the desired material as found, for example and without limitation, under the headings 102 and/or 106.

Computer 12 further automatically provides an entry 244 which is provided in the same informational row as the heading 246 which is entitled "dealer's discount" and represents a discount to be given by the dealer (e.g., the organization that employs the sales professional) that is either manually inputted or is automatically calculated and such a discount may be based upon the identity of the customer (e.g., the purchasing history of the customer) and/or upon the type of equipment, assemblies, and/or devices which are quoted. In one non-limiting embodiment, discount 246 may be entered as either a fixed amount or as a percentage. Computer 12 further provides an entry 252 which is placed in the same informational row as the heading 254 entitled "manufacturer's discount 2" and which

represents an manually inputted manufacturer's discount or reduction which is to be applied to the total sale and which, by way of example and without limitation, is based upon the identity of the customer (e.g., the purchasing history of the customer), and/or the type of products or materials which are quoted, and/or the type of manufacturer's special offers available. Computer 12 then generates an entry 256 upon the same row of information as the heading 258 which is entitled "total". Particularly, entry 256 represents the sum of entries 228, 232, 240 and the subtraction of entries 244 and 252 from this sum and represents the total amount of money that the customer shall pay for the quoted material or equipment. Hence, the portion 200 is substantially automatically generated, by computer 12 (i.e., the term "automatic" means that portion 200 is created by the computer 12 and not by the sales professional), while leaving the discounts 224, 244, and 252 to be dynamically inputted.

Screen display 70 further includes a portion 202, as is more clearly shown in Figure 5, which is entitled "salesman miscellaneous detail" and which has a first entry 290 which appears upon the same row of information as the heading 292 which is entitled "enter/display margin".

Particularly, entry 290 represents the profit margin which the dealer is to obtain from the sale of the product which is referenced by the entry 84. This margin entry 290 may be provided to the computer 12 by the dealer/manufacturer
5 automatically or may be dynamically entered by the sales professional. In one non-limiting embodiment of the present invention, the sales professional may optionally and dynamically input the desired margin amount or percentage into entry 290 and thereby automatically
10 calculate the resulting discounts 224, 244, and/or 252.

Portion 202 further includes a second entry 294 which appears upon the same informational row as the heading 296 which is entitled "base cost". Particularly, entry 294, which is provided by the dealer to the computer 12,
15 represents the cumulative costs to the dealer of obtaining the item which is described by the entry 84 of the selected lines 98 and their associated components or attachments (if any). Portion 202 further includes a third entry 298 which resides within the same row of information as the heading
20 300 which is entitled "setup labor rate". Particularly, entry 298, which is provided by the dealer to the computer 12, represents the hourly cost of labor for "setting up"

the machine which is referenced by the entry 84 and its associated components or attachments.

Further, portion 202 includes an entry 302 which appears upon the same row of information as the heading 304 which is entitled "setup labor hours". Particularly, entry 302, which is calculated by computer 12, represents the cumulative number of hours actually required to "setup" or operationally assemble the machine or equipment which is represented by the entry 84 and its associated components or attachments. Portion 202 further includes an entry 306 which appears within the same row of information as the heading 308 which is entitled "enter mtl's/misc percentage". Particularly, an entry 306 represents a percentage applied against the net cost which is represented as entry 92, which is to be applied as a miscellaneous price adjustment. Portion 202 further has an entry 310 which appears upon the same row of information as the heading 312 which is entitled "materials/miscellaneous amount". Particularly, an entry 310 represents a fixed amount, as opposed to the percentage entry 306, which should be added to the total cost.

Portion 202 further includes an entry 314 which appears within the same row of information as the heading

316 which is entitled "net cost". Particularly, entry 314 represents the total cost to the dealer for the equipment which is referenced by the entry 84. Further, portion 202 includes an entry 318 which appears upon the same row of
5 information as the heading 320 which is entitled "total list price" and which, in one non-limiting embodiment of the invention, is substantially equal to the sum of the various "subtotal list" entries 96 and their associated components or attachments "subtotal list entries" 151.

10 The information contained within the portion 202 represents a summary of the calculated sums of the various columns depicted in Figure 3 (e.g., subtotal list price 94 and setup hours 99) and which further allows the sales professional to dynamically alter or change the provided
15 list price, found for example by entry 92, while maintaining some margin or profit.

To further understand the use of the system 10, reference is now made to the quote template or informational display portion 400 which is shown in Figures
20 6 (a-b) and which is selectively displayed to a user of the computer 12.

Particularly, template 400 includes a first portion 402 which may, in one non-limiting embodiment, be created

by the dynamic insertion of entries 340, 360, 380, 382,
384, 386, and 388. That is, in this non-limiting
embodiment, the sales professional manually inputs these
entries into the portion 402 by use of a keyboard. Entry
5 340 depicts the customer's name. Entries 360 - 384 depict
the customer's address. Entries 386 and 388 depict the
customer's telephone and telefacsimile numbers,
respectively. Entry 404 depicts the current date and is
automatically updated by the computer 12. Furthermore,
10 entries 406 and 408 may be manually placed into the portion
402 by the sales professional and respectively correspond
to the identity of the sales professional who is preparing
the quotation and the salutation to be afforded to the
customer or contact individual. Moreover, in yet another
15 non-limiting embodiment of the invention, portion 402 may
have yet another entry 410, which provides a customer's
business name or describes the nature of the business which
is conducted by the customer.

Hence, once it is determined that a quotation is to be
20 created, a template 400 is accessed by the sales
professional and displayed upon the computer 12. The sales
professional then dynamically inputs the customer
information 340 - 388 of the customer for whom the

quotation is to be generated. After these tasks are completed, the sales professional determines the equipment which is to be quoted and accesses and displays the corresponding equipment sheets after selecting the "add
5 equipment" entry 414 of portion 402 by use of a cursor or by the use of a keystroke. After this entry is selected, the computer 12 allows the sales professional to selectively access and display equipment pages, such as page or informational display portion 70. Selections of
10 portions of the displays, such as display 70, are made and automatically copied or transferred onto the quotation template 400. That is, each entry 74, which is selected, is transferred or placed or referenced by an entry in portion 430 of the quotation template 400. Each entry contained
15 within line 98 that is selected is transferred, placed, and/or referenced by an entry within portion 432 of the quotation template 400. Further, each entry within a row 208 of display portion 130 and/or row 184 of display portion 180 which are selected are transferred, placed,
20 and/or referenced by an entry within portion 434. In this manner, the quotation template is automatically created upon the selection of various portions of the equipment display portions 70.

The quotation template 400 further has an entry portion 450 which appears upon the same row of information as the heading 452 which is entitled "list price" and which represents the total list price of all of the selected components, materials, and/or equipment. The quotation template 400 further has an entry portion 454 which appears upon the same row of information as the heading 456 which is entitled "set up". Particularly, the entry 454 comprises or represents the total amount of "set up" charges for the equipment, components, and materials which are referenced above it and included within the quotation template 400. The quotation template further has an entry portion 458 which appears upon the same row of information as the heading 460 which is entitled "freight". Particularly, the entry 458 represents the total freight charge for the equipment, components, and materials which are referenced above it and included in the quotation template 400. The quotation template 400 further includes an entry portion 462 which appears upon the same row of information as the heading 464 which is entitled "sale price" and which represents the total price, after the application of all respective and associated and previously delineated discounts, for each of the quoted equipment, components,

and materials and, in one non-limiting embodiment of the invention, represents the sum of all of the respective entries 256 for each of the quoted equipment, components, and materials.

5 It should be understood that portions 430, 432, and 434 delineate information for only a single product that is represented by a copy of a display portion 70 and its associated components or accessories. If more than one required item is selected (e.g., there is more than one
10 sub-section of required equipment within portion 76), separate portions 430 - 434 will be generated for each different piece of equipment or component that is represented by a display portion 70.

 The quotation template 400 further includes an entry
15 470 which summarizes or is substantially equal to the sum of the entries 462 for each selected "required" item(s) and its associated components or attachments, and which is on the same row of information as the heading 472 which is entitled "sale price". The quotation template 400 also
20 includes an entry 474 which appears within the same informational row of information as the heading 476 which is entitled "trade-ins". Particularly, the entry 474 represents the value of all equipment, components, and

materials which have been brought to the dealer from the customer and for which credit is to be given. Quotation template 400 further includes an entry 478 which appears upon the same row of information as the heading 480 which
5 is entitled "grand total" and which has a value which is substantially equal to the difference of the value of entry 470 and the value of entry 474.

Quotation template 400 also includes a selectable entry 490 which, upon its selection by a mouse or a
10 keystroke, causes the computer 12 to print the quotation template 70. Further, the quotation template 400 also includes a selectable entry 492 which, upon its selection by a mouse or a keystroke, causes the computer 12 to "clear" or destroy all of the entries which have been
15 transferred to template 400. The quotation template 400 further includes a selectable entry 494 which, upon its selection by a mouse or a keystroke, causes the computer 12 to clear or destroy all of the entries which have been transferred to the template 400 plus all associated
20 template 70 copies and to exit the quotation portion or quotation generation portion 14 of the computer 12. The quotation template 400 further includes a selectable entry 496 which, upon its selection by a mouse or a keystroke,

causes the computer 12 to exit the quotation portion or the quotation generation portion 14 of the computer 12. The quotation template 400 further includes a selectable entry 498 which, upon its selection by a mouse or a keystroke, causes the computer 12 to save the created quotation template 400 and all copies of the equipment templates 70 to a disk or other storage medium for further use.

The quotation template 400 further includes a selectable entry portion 500 which, upon its selection by a mouse or by a keystroke, causes the computer 12 to "put the quotation on hold" which, in one non-limiting embodiment of the invention, causes the quotation template 400 and all associated template 70 copies to be stored in a directory which is referenced by the customer name. The quotation template 400 further includes a selectable entry portion 502 which, upon its selection by a mouse or keystroke, enables the computer 12 to display all of the quotation templates 400 which have been placed on hold. This feature allows the user to access, review, and/or edit all of the quotes previously put on hold.

It is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the exact construction which has been delineated above, but that various changes and modifications may be

made without departing from the spirit and the scope of the inventions as are more fully set forth in the following claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

(1) A computerized quotation system comprising at least one first portion which has equipment information; and a second portion which selectively copies at least some of the contained equipment information and which uses some of the copied information to provide a quotation.

(2) The quotation system of claim 1 wherein said first portion comprises an information template.

(3) The quotation system of claim 2 wherein said information template comprises inputtable dealer information.

(4) The quotation system of claim 2 wherein said information template comprises inputtable information for a certain product which is provided in a row and column format.

(5) The quotation system of claim 4 wherein said information comprises the following:

an attachment identifier code;

a brief description of said certain product;

a quantity of said certain product;

a list price for said certain product;

a subtotal list amount which is equal to said list price multiplied by said quantity;

a number of setup hours for said certain product;
a shipping weight of said certain product in
pounds;

a weight of said certain product in kilograms;

5 a code for said certain product;

a first reference code for said certain product;

and

a second reference code for said certain product.

(6) The quotation system of claim 5 wherein said
10 information template is depicted as separate selectable
sections, said separate selectable sections comprising the
following:

a description of the features of said certain
product;

15 said information for required products;

said information for attachments to said required
products;

said information for field conversion attachments
to said required products;

20 a totals box; and

a salesman miscellaneous detail box.

(7) The quotation system of claim 6 wherein said totals
box comprises the following:

a total list price for said selected sections;
a first manufacturer's discount value for said
total list price;

a subtotal which is said total list price minus
5 said first manufacturer's discount;

a setup cost total for said selected sections
which is a setup labor rate multiplied by an amount of
total setup hours;

a freight cost total for said selected sections;
10 a dealer's discount value;
a second manufacturer's discount value for said
setup cost and said freight cost; and

a total amount which is the sum of said subtotal,
said setup cost, and said freight cost, minus said dealer's
15 discount and said second manufacturer's discount.

(8) The quotation system of claim 6 wherein said salesman
miscellaneous detail box comprises the following:

a margin value;
a total base cost amount for said selected
20 sections;
said setup labor rate;
said total setup hours;
a materials/miscellaneous percentage amount;

a materials/miscellaneous amount;

a net cost amount; and

said total list price for said selected sections.

(9) The quotation system of claim 8 wherein said second
5 portion comprises a quotation template.

(10) The quotation system of claim 9 wherein said quotation
template displays an inputtable customer description block
and a summary of said at least one first portion, said
display comprises the following:

10 said description of the features of said certain
product;

 said information for required products;

 said information for attachments;

 said information for field conversion
15 attachments;

 a total price;

 a trade-in amount; and

 a grand total amount which is said total price
minus said trade-in amount.

20 (11) A method for providing a quotation is provided; said
method includes the steps of obtaining equipment
information; placing said equipment information in a
database; storing said database; selecting at least some of

said information; providing a quotation template; and copying said selected information onto said quotation template.

(12) The method of claim 11 wherein said information in
5 said database is stored in a computer system.

(13) The method of claim 12 further comprising the optional steps of:

saving said quotation;

putting said quotation on hold;

10 adding additional equipment to said quotation;

printing said quotation; and

clearing said information from said quotation
template.

(14) The method of claim 12 wherein said information is
15 manually inputted by a user.

(15) The method of claim 12 wherein said information is downloaded off of a compact disc.

(16) The method of claim 12 wherein said information is downloaded off of the Internet.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A computerized quotation system 10 which allows equipment quotation templates 400 to be selectively and efficiently created by the use of equipment display portions 70.

5

10 →

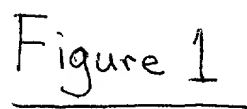


Figure 1

Dealer Information For Green's Golf And Turf Equipment Co.

32

Dealer Name

Green's Golf And Turf Equipment Co.

34

Dealer Address

26954 San Mateo Way

36

City

San Bernadino

38

State

California

40

Postal Code

45678

46

Phone

213-458-6719

42

Fax

213-567-5789

48

Contact Phone

800-459-6739

44

E-mail

bobbyv@greensgolf.com

50

Global Values

Setup Labor Rate

\$ 65.00

52

% For Materials Handling, etc

0.0050

54

30

Figure 2

1500 180 181

Attachments For Field Conversion									
BM118886	WINDROW ATTACHMENTS	288.00	1.00	59	26	9010	602K01		
BM19709	MINI TINE KIT	950.00		48	21	9030	006K65		
	NOTE: Includes Tine Holders, Turf Guards, and One Set 1/4" Side Open Tines								
BM18889	SPEED CONTROL KIT	90.00		3	1	9060	006K3		
	NOTE: For Installation on 755,855,955 Tractors								
TCB10015	SPEED CONTROL KIT	112.00		4	1	9065	407K8		
	NOTE: For Installation on 4300,4400 Tractors								
BM19327	4X TINE HOLDERS FOR 3/8" 1/2" 5/8" TINES	820.00		50	22	9070	005K74		
	NOTE: Does not Include Tines (Set of 6)								
BM19328	4X TINE HOLDERS FOR 3/4 IN. TINES	820.00		46	20	9080	005K74		
	NOTE: Does not Include Tines (Set of 6)								
BM19329	3X TINE HOLDERS FOR 3/4 IN. TINES	780.00		50	22	9090	005K46		
	NOTE: Does not Include Tines (Set of 6)								

82

Totals Box

www
XXX
YYY
ZZZ

Salesman Miscellaneous Detail

aaa
bbb
ccc
ddd

Figure 3(b)

Figure 4
Totals Box Details

222	—	Total List Price	X	X	X	220
226	—	Manufacturer's Discount 1	X	X	X	224
230	—	Subtotal	X	X	X	228
234	—	Setup	X	X	X	232
242	—	Freight	X	X	X	240
246	—	Dealer's Discount	X	X	X	244
254	—	Manufacturer's Discount 2	X	X	X	252
		TOTAL	X	X	X	256

258

200

Figure 5
Salesman Misc. Detail

292	—	Enter/Display Margin	X	X	X	290
296	—	Base Cost	X	X	X	294
300	—	Setup Labor Rate	X	X	X	298
304	—	Setup Labor Hours	X	X	X	302
308	—	Enter Misc. Percentage	X	X	X	306
312	—	Materials / Misc Amount	X	X	X	310
316	—	Net Cost	X	X	X	314
320	—	Total List Price	X	X	X	318

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quote

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quote

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August 3, 2000

Put On Hold

Save Quote

Add Equipment

Held Quotes

Exit Only

Print Quote

Clear Quote

Clear All & Exit

About

CUST LAST NM Jobo

CUST EST NM bow

GOLFCOURSE Jobo

ADDRESS1 123

ADDRESS2

CITY San

STATE Tx

ZIP 78213

SALESPERSON

SALE PRICE \$0.00

TRADE-INS 0.00

GRAND TOTAL \$0.00

WARNING TO USER: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ALTER ANYTHING BELOW OR THE LABELS ABOVE. ONLY ENTER TEXT TO RIGHT OF LABELS OR TRADE-INS BOX OR USE BUTTONS.

FEATURES

COMPONENTS

ACCESSORIES

Figure 6(a)

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
(Original Application-Sole Inventor to Priority Claimed)

As the below named inventor I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated near my name below; that I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter of which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

COMPUTERIZED QUOTATION GENERATION SYSTEM

and, more particularly, which is described and claimed in an Application for Letters Patent filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office filed herewith; that I have reviewed and understand the contents of that Application, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; that I do not know and do not believe the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention thereof or patented or described in any printed publication, in any country before my invention thereof for more than one year prior to this Application, or in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this Application; that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of and inventor's certificate issued before the date of this Application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve (12) months prior to this Application; that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the examination of this Application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a); and that no Application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this Application by me or my legal representatives or assigns except as follows:

NONE

I hereby appoint John G. Chupa (Reg. No. 33,483) and David Alberti (Reg. No. 43,465) of Chupa & Alberti, P.C., as my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith. Please address all correspondence and telephone calls to:

John G. Chupa
Chupa & Alberti, P.C.
31313 Northwestern Highway
Suite 203
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 865-9488

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18

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